

Trade Celebrates MGM's 20th

Injunction Won In Montreal

An interim injunction was granted by Judge Louis Cousineau in the Superior Court to the Kent Theatres Limited against United Amusement Corporation Limited and Vitagraph Limited, all of Montreal. Vitagraph product in the zone affected will thus play the Kent first.

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Ontario Changes Hall Inspection

The Ontario Government, following the tragic fire which cost ten lives in Hamilton, Ontario when the Moose Temple hall, scene of a dance, was destroyed, has taken the lead in endeavoring to bring public and private places of amusement up to the standard of safety maintained by

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Leo Roars on Record Scale As Exhibs Offer Screens

This week Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer celebrates its twentieth anniversary as a major unit of the motion picture industry and most of the usual trade barriers between companies competing in the same field have been dropped so that each

'Intention and Desire' -- Rank

In view of increased interest of Canadians in British films and the recent agreement between J. Arthur Rank and Spyros Skouras on joint production and distribution of a limited nature, the following statement of Mr. Rank in English trade journals should be of interest:

"With the tremendous advance

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Coplan Bereaved

David Coplan, now in England as United Artists chief, lost his mother last week.

Industry Checkup By IODE Convenors

The annual report of Mrs. B. B. Osler, convenor of the National Film Committee of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, reveals the great interest of that organization in the motion picture, with emphasis on commercial exhibition in Canada. Mrs. Osler's term of office has just ended.

The report stated that theatre managers had been most co-operative in providing their theatre facilities for furthering such IODE work as raising funds for children's milk and furthering its Camps' Libraries Campaign. Special matinees were run after the theatres had publicized the campaigns and in one theatre members were permitted to sell

tags in the theatre.

It was also shown that the IODE, though an unofficial body, has received special privileges from such government film officials as censors and was encouraging its members to extend their influence. This is interesting because the motion picture industry is a private enterprise responsible to the public through its representatives, government officials appointed by the elected

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Stress War Help At FPCC Confab

"We are one of the few industries whose contribution to the war effort has been made without cost to the government," President Barney Balaban of Paramount Pictures said in an informal talk, before Famous Players managers and partners at Niagara Falls, Ontario, last

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B.C. Theatre Sold

The Cadet Theatre, Esquimalt, British Columbia, was recently purchased by J. D. Hannan and son of Camrose, Alberta. The house, which seats 378 and is open six days a week, was formerly owned by S. B. Kennedy.



HENRY L. NATHANSON



LOUIS B. MAYER

These two gentlemen control the destiny of MGM as it affects Canada. Mayer, in charge of MGM production, is at one end, and Nathanson, in charge for the Dominion, is at the other. This week the company celebrates its twentieth anniversary, which has a special interest for Canadians, since Mayer hails from St. John, New Brunswick.

This Is the Life

There are ten songs in it. New at the Uptown, Toronto. Book this great entertainment value through EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL.

is UNIVERSAL's romping musical starring the new boxoffice star, Donald O'Connor, who shares top billing with Susanna Foster and Peggy Ryan, and featuring Louise Allbritton and Patric Knowles.

Stress War Help At FPCC Confab

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week. "Our industry has never made one cent out of films produced, distributed and exhibited and we intend to see that this record is continued."

Mr. Balaban and Leonard M. Goldenison, Paramount vice-president, were guests of honor at the three-day convention in the General Brock Hotel. Goldenison, speaking on post-war construction, advocated a careful study of new developments before any new ventures are undertaken.

J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players, impressed the important part manpower played in successful operation. "I ask your continued support," he said to the managers, "for from you come the ideas that operate our business. I know I am surrounded by the finest group of executives and managers that could operate any business anywhere."

He praised the community service of the managers. "The motion picture has come of age during these war times," Mr. Fitzgibbons declared. "We have won the respect of the public and the confidence of governments. The job we are doing today will have an important bearing on the post-war situation. We have tried to do a good job—the industry as a whole, not just our company—and we must continue to do so."

The need for good, careful advertising, the value of emphasis on short subjects and the importance of friendly relations with the patrons was stressed by Mr. Fitzgibbons.

"The way you greet your patrons and the way you present your show are both important," he said. "There is no reason why a manager can't be on the floor during rush hours. You can't find out how your patrons feel about the entertainment you are offering if you stay in the office and aren't on the floor to talk to them."

Famous Players executives led discussion on every phase of theatre operation and the newest type of projection machines were displayed.

It was agreed that all theatres under FPCC control would provide complimentary theatre parties for the convalescent members of the armed forces that may be quartered in their localities.

The convention, which concluded on June 8 with a visit by head office staff, was the first full conference in five years.

Fingold in Meaford

Phillip Fingold of Aurora has purchased the Capitol, Meaford, Ontario, from Nick Trebish.

MGM Celebrates 20th Birthday

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growing freer every day.

The first film issued by the company after its formation in 1924 was "The Big Parade" and the anniversary attraction is "The White Cliffs." These films are the opposite ends of a celluloid bridge that took two decades to cross. They successfully spanned the treacherous abyss of public taste, removing uncertainty of the future and providing a highway for technical and artistic progress. This accomplishment was an inspiration to the entire industry, spurning contemporary competitors and providing a blueprint for those who entered motion picture distribution and exhibition later.

Canada has a special interest in MGM. As with the beginning of the motion picture itself, Canadian showings of MGM product were day-and-date with those of the USA.

More than that, the man who is chiefly responsible for the position of MGM today, Louis B. Mayer, hails from St. John, New Brunswick, where a special celebration is being held under the supervision of his lifelong friend, Deputy Mayor Walter Golding, manager of the Capitol Theatre.

Mayer left St. John to enter the exhibition field in New England and when he merged his interests with those of Marcus Loew to create MGM there were 500 company people at the opening celebration. Under him MGM's staff rose to 5,000 today and the greatest star roster in the industry.

Henry Nathanson, the present head of MGM in Canada, succeeded to that post in 1920, after four years in charge of Regal in the West. MGM is still distributed through Regal.

MGM represents the union of some of the most enterprising people in the early motion picture industry—Marcus Loew, Sam Goldwyn, Nicholas Schenck, David Bernstein and Louis B. Mayer. They attracted others of outstanding qualities in the United States and Canada. Its present position is due to the courage and initiative of its founders and the qualities of those who came under their banner through the years.

At the Hollywood celebration

of the anniversary there will be 139 employees who were on the first payroll and attended the opening ceremonies in 1924. At that time MGM had six stars. The total is now 23 and ten will be added in honor of the occasion. There were 535 employees in 1924.

The motion picture industry without the MGM link in its history just wouldn't be what it is. The industry knows that and has joined whole-heartedly in its anniversary celebration.

Injunction Won In Montreal

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instead of the Snowden as formerly. Date for hearing the application for a permanent injunction has been set for October 30, 1944.

Petition for appeal will be heard on Thursday, June 15. If granted it will be heard in September.

Judge Cousineau, in his notes, held that the Kent Theatres had proven that there was a prima facie case of illegal combine and undue trade restraint in the Montreal area.

His Lordship also dismissed the declinatory exception submitted by the defendants to the effect that the Superior Court had no jurisdiction and that the film and theatre business was under Order A398 of the War-time Prices and Trade Board. He held that no order of the WPTB nullifies the Combine Act and in this specific case questions of injunction are within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court.

F. Jackson, London, Heads Troop Show

Fred Jackson, manager of the Loew's, London, Ontario, has another job on the side. Since the start of the war he's been managing the Tweedsmuir Victory Revue, an entertainment unit playing all Army, Navy and Air Force stations within a 125-mile radius of London. Over 350,000 of the troops have seen the show.

The revue plays a different camp every Tuesday night.

Ontario Changes Hall Inspection

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theatres. Hundreds of such halls are crowded each night with bingo and other forms of activity. In Quebec exhibitors have pointed out many times that parish halls, where there are regular showings of 16 mm. films for a charge, are firetraps.

Provincial Treasurer Leslie M. Frost has appointed a Royal Commission under Judge Ian M. Macdonell to survey the situation and make necessary recommendations. For the time being municipalities have been given authority to regulate and license public halls and similar places of assembly. The question of jurisdiction arose after the Hamilton fire, when it was shown that the Moose Temple, not being licensed, was not on the inspection list.

Mr. Frost pointed out that there are thousands of halls with various standards of construction and safety, many of them in use for a great many years. Their inspection and regulation always had been regarded as a matter primarily of municipal authority, but, Mr. Frost explained, Provincial licenses had been imposed in recent years to ensure collection of the amusement tax. These licenses will be discontinued at once.

"In view of the dangers of the present situation," Mr. Frost said, "it is felt that there should be no division of authority."

Copies of minimum safety requirements will be sent also to all school boards.

Film Weekly

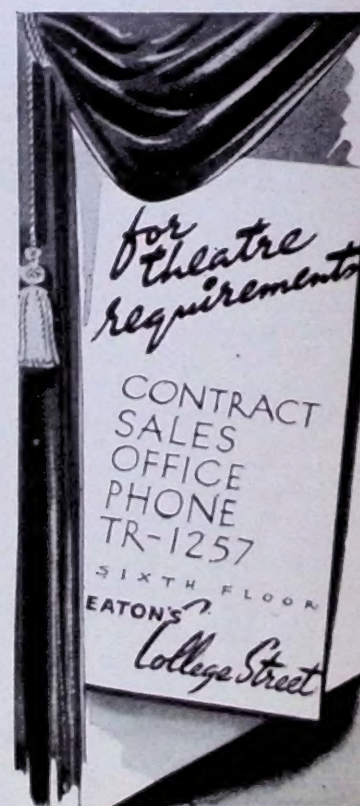
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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor



Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble

with Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone
M-G-M 107 Mins.

CUTTING WOULD MAKE LATEST OF SERIES BETTER BOX-OFFICE BET; WILDE TWINS PROVE BIG HIT.

An operation would make this a much healthier box-office prospect. The action is cluttered up with much unnecessary stuff, elimination of which would speed up the film and give it cohesion. As the picture stands it is slower than it has the right to be. Just about all the picture needs to make it a hit is a sharp pair of scissors fearlessly wielded.

In the latest of the Andy Hardy series we again see Mickey Rooney in the throes of girl trouble. He becomes involved with the opposite sex as soon as he climbs aboard the train that takes him to Wainright College, his dad's (Lewis Stone's) alma mater, now a co-educational institution (Goody! Goody!). In college he's forever getting in hot water because of some innocent involvement with one or another fair co-ed. His biggest headache is caused by a pair of twins (Lee and Lyn Wilde) who are playing at being one to circumvent their father's efforts to separate them. In trying to help them carry out their little scheme Rooney gets in a financial mess from which he extricates himself with the greatest of difficulty. He attempts to solve his problem by quitting Wainright but is induced by his pop to stick it out. While trying to get the Wilde twins out of his hair Rooney manages to find time to fall in love with Bonita Granville, who has a crush on the dean (Herbert Marshall).

Harry Ruskin, William Ludwig and Agnes Christine Johnston did the screenplay. They have succeeded exceptionally well in creating a sense of youth, although their business about the twins sometimes becomes rather confusing. George B. Seitz directed acceptably.

Rooney is his same bouncing self as Andy. Lewis Stone plays his father with his customary competence.

CAST: Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Fay Holden, Sara Haden, Herbert Marshall, Bonita Granville, Jean Porter, Keye Luke, Lee Wilde, Lyn Wilde, Marta Linden.

DIRECTION, All Right. PHOTOGRAPHY, All Right.

Help Russ Aid

More than 200 Ontario theatres will screen trailers for the Russian Linen Shower.

Escape to Danger

with Eric Portman, Ann Dvorak
RKO 84 Mins.

WAR MELODRAMA CONTAINS GOOD EXPLOITATION ANGLE; ROUTINE PRODUCTION STRICTLY FOR DUALS.

The strongest selling angle in "Escape to Danger" is the extreme timeliness that can be given the subject—an attempt by the Nazis to get data on a concentration of British barges intended for an invasion, which for exploitation purposes could very well be represented as the coming invasion of Germany's European bastion.

The picture is no more than mildly interesting until toward the end when the British authorities by a clever bit of trickery draw a host of Nazi air and sea raiders to their destruction. Up to that time what transpires is rather familiar and commonplace. Some members of the audience are apt to consider some of the developments in the film a little confusing and certain of the proceedings hard to accept without questioning. About one thing however, there can be no quibbling. The film has plenty of life and a good amount of suspense.

The plot unites Ann Dvorak and Eric Portman, the latter remembered best for his work in that fine production, "The Invaders." Miss Dvorak, an English teacher who runs with the Nazis the better to be able to carry on her work in behalf of the Allies, is dispatched to England from Denmark to obtain the information about the barges. She is shadowed by Portman, a member of the British intelligence who makes life so miserable for her that she is compelled to spill her story to the police. Armed with information supplied by her, the British war office stages the stunt that leads the Nazi planes and ships into a trap. The girl is killed in a battle with a Nazi agent.

The cast is not a very strong one. Playing up the name of Miss Dvorak ought to help since she's the sole member of the cast at all well-known to the American film public.

CAST: Eric Portman, Ann Dvorak, Karel Stepanek, Ronald Ward, Ronald Adam, A. E. Matthews, David Peel, Ivor Barnard, Breda O'Rourke, Hay Petrie.

DIRECTION, Ordinary. PHOTOGRAPHY, All Right.

Man From Frisco

with Michael O'Shea, Anne Shirley
Republic 91 Mins.

STORY OF SHIPBUILDING WIZARD PROVIDES STRONG DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT FOR DUALS.

In making "Man From Frisco" Republic obviously was inspired by the career of Henry J. Kaiser, shipbuilder extraordinary. The resemblance between Kaiser and the central character in the film is more than coincidental. In this perhaps lies the film's chief claim to attention and best money-making possibilities.

The film sticks rather closely to formula in telling its story of a construction wizard (Michael O'Shea) who turns his genius to the building of pre-fabricated ships for war use. His revolutionary methods gain him the animosity of everyone, including the shipyard superintendent's daughter (Anne Shirley). The only exception is Miss Shirley's brother (Tommy Bond), who has a lot to do with turning the tide in our hero's favor. When Bond is killed during the construction of a ship, O'Shea is unjustly held responsible, but subsequently he is absolved. He winds up fully vindicated and with Miss Shirley not only on his side but in his arms.

Considerable vigor has been brought to the film's production by Associate Producer Albert J. Cohen. The story has been interestingly told with the elements of excitement generously drawn upon to enhance the box-office prospects of the picture.

O'Shea plays the leading role with forcefulness, although it is sometimes hard to imagine him as the master builder of ships. Anne Shirley plays the romantic foil nicely. Others who deserve a nod are Gene Lockhart as Miss Shirley's father, Dan Duryea as the guy from whom our hero wins the girl, and young Bond. Ray Walker and Stephanie Bachelor are others in good roles.

CAST: Michael O'Shea, Anne Shirley, Gene Lockhart, Dan Duryea, Stephanie Bachelor, Ray Walker, Tommy Bond, Robert Warwick, Olin Howlin, Ann Shoemaker, Russell Simpson, Stanley Andrews, Forbes Murray, Erville Alderson, Michael Barnitz.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Bernstein Ill

Jules Bernstein, popular manager of Loew's Theatre, is ill in a Toronto hospital.

Slightly Terrific

with Leon Errol, Eddie Quillan,
Anne Rooney

Universal 61 Mins.
MUSICAL WILL HAVE TOUGH TIME MAKING GRADE; YOUNG FOLK MOST LIKELY TO BE AMUSED.

This low-budget Universal musical is only sporadically diverting. The way the story has been treated only serves to accentuate its hackneyed quality. Further, neither director nor actors are able to pull the show out of the rut. The film is filled with stuff of little interest to anyone out of bobbysocks. Primarily worthy of attention are several song renditions, notably by Donald Novis, Jayne Forrest and Lillian Cornell.

The plot is all about the efforts of a bunch of tyros to put on a musical show under the guidance of Eddie Quillan. Their hopes are lifted when they meet a jerk (Leon Errol) whom they mistake for a millionaire. It so happens that the jerk and the millionaire are twins. The kids don't know this—a fact which makes for a beautiful but not too funny mix-up. After a long siege of confusion the youngsters are set straight on who's who, and the millionaire, won over by the pleading of Anne Rooney, a member of the show's cast, offers to back the theatrical venture.

The direction of Edward F. Cline makes for liveliness if nothing else. A story by Edith Watkins and Florence McEnany served as the basis of the routine Edward Dein-Stanley Davis screenplay.

The cast isn't much to speak of. Errol plays his dual assignment without giving too much of himself. Miss Rooney, Quillan, Betty Kean, Lorraine Krueger, Ray Malone, Lee Bennett and Richard Lane are badly handicapped by direction and material.

CAST: Leon Errol, Anne Rooney, Eddie Quillan, Betty Kean, Lorraine Krueger, Ray Malone, Lee Bennett, Richard Lane, Jayne Forrest, Donald Novis, Lillian Cornell, Star Dusters, Maritza Dancers, Eight Rhythmeers.

DIRECTION, So-So. PHOTOGRAPHY, Okay.

Simcoe Theatre Adds 125 Seats

Manager F. R. Pursel of the Strand Theatre, Simcoe, Ontario, is installing 125 additional seats in the house. Former seating capacity was 300. Work will begin shortly on an air-conditioning plant.



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Toronto.

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HELEN VINSON
LYLE TALBOT

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PROVEN HITS

Lady Let's Dance

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BELITA

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PICTURES**

Toronto, Montreal, St. John,
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I Hear Voices...

Despite the heavy agenda at the Famous Players convention in Niagara Falls, there was plenty of fun, as is the case when good fellows get together and old friends meet. . . Pat J. Hannifan of the Garrick, Halifax, was on hand. A real old-timer who used to be censor for Nova Scotia, his visit to Niagara Falls caused him to recall the first time he saw the super waterworks. It was 58 years ago, when he was in town as a member of a stage troupe. . . Ed Landsborough and Pat Drohan had quite a time telling me about John Green, still in show business, who was among the first to show motion pictures in Canada. John is now in Alberta. . . Ernie Smithers of Kingston provided a laugh about the woman who came every night to see "The Man They Could Not Hang." When he asked her why, she answered, "I've seen that fellow escape death three times now and he can't get away with it every night". . . One of the most popular fellows was Jack Ward of the Seneca, Niagara Falls, who had a great deal to do with the excellent way things went. . . Tom Daley floated around looking for Maritimers and every time he saw one proclaimed, "You see the sort of people we raise in the Maritimes!"

* * *

Ain't It Always Thus?

Jack Arthur was lecturing to the assembled managers on how to present the show. They were given pads and told to mark the errors they caught in the first example, which was deliberately bad. Following that Jack arranged the perfect show. But something went wrong and the "perfect" show was worse than the imperfect one. You could see Jack's hair getting grayer by the second, the boys say. . . John Connors, Jr., was there from Glace Bay, N.S., the most easterly point in Canada. Johnny was telling about the time he went to hear Fred Allen, an old vaudevillian, broadcast. A friend had delegated Johnny to get Fred's autograph but he couldn't get past the crowd afterwards. So he just shouted "Glace Bay" and Fred shouted back, "How's John Connors?" The elder Connors is a good friend. Allen, Junior says, asked after all the managers in all the towns he used to visit in Nova Scotia. . . Jim Harris, who just joined the FPCC art department, was being introduced by Jackson Barker, who flaunted a knockout of a sport jacket, gift of pal Duke Ellington.

* * *

Will'-O-the Whispers

Al Sedgewick of the Belsize, Toronto, pulled a good one the other week. Most of his marquee letters were away being painted and didn't come back in time. Rather than leave the marquee empty he got a pencil and paper and worked out something that would avoid Ds and Bs, and not call for more than four Ns. This is what the marquee carried: "LOOK AT THIS SIGN TOMORROW FOR THE NAME OF THE GREATEST SHOW IN TOWN". . . One afternoon Barney Fox and Raoul Auerbach went to Dufferin Park Races. Barney was headed for the ticket machines so Raoul asked him to buy a five-dollar ticket on a horse called "Front Attack." When Barney got back it turned out that the clerk didn't hear him right and gave him a ticket on "Punta Rassa" instead. So Barney, a sporty guy, pocketed the ticket and bought Raoul the one he wanted on "Front Attack"—which lost. But "Punta Rassa" won and Barney collected three to one! Opportunity knocks but once, Raoul, but it often wears heavy gloves. . . Too bad Dewey Bloom is ill just when MGM is having its celebration. Dewey is one of the host of MGMMinions who helped make it the biggest big company in the business.

Bloom Recovering

Dewey Bloom, MGM's Canadian promotion representative, is recovering from a major operation performed by Dr. Roscoe Graham at the Toronto General Hospital.

Vanc'r Exchange Sold

The Vancouver Film Exchange, Vancouver, British Columbia, was sold last week to an unknown purchaser for \$70,000. Gordon Thompson Real Estate Company handled the transaction.

'Intention and Desire' -- Rank

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which has taken place during the last year in the technical production of British Pictures, the present time is a golden opportunity and one which I fully intend to seize for the presentation of such pictures to the audiences of the world.

"With a continuity in production a program of pictures will be offered to the exhibitors of the world annually—but in view of the magnitude of each production, such pictures will be offered individually.

"This new organization has been formed for such a venture and the industry has been combed to secure the best possible brains headed by Mr. E. T. Carr in order that the utmost confidence may be given to exhibitors all over the world in the value from an entertainment point of view of the pictures offered.

"It is my earnest wish that the pictures offered will be different from those of our competitors and in every way upholding the British character, which in the past few dark years, has never failed to shine."

The statement, headed "Intention and Desire," was coupled with the crest of Eagle-Lion Distributors Ltd. It was issued as part of a trade paper insert which featured photographs of the executives of Eagle-Lion.

Rank said recently that he had been advised not to enter the film field. "I told them I was very sorry," he explained, "but I could not accept their advice, as I felt called to this work."

The USA Department of Justice is checking on the Rank-Fox deal from a cartel standpoint.

Jack Lyle, Comedian Passes in Toronto

Jack Lyle, 70, comedian, who has been entertaining troops in the Toronto area for the past four years, passed away last week. He started his stage career in minstrel shows and later appeared in a number of musical comedies. A brother, Frank Dawson, is a Hollywood actor.

Predicts Anti-Germ Ray for Theatres

Ultra violet ray lamps, strategically placed in theatres and other public places, will be used to kill epidemic bearing germs and create germ free air in the near future, according to D. C. Borden, an official of the Northern Electric Company. Borden claims it will only take a half-dozen lamps to do the job in a large hall.



Invasion Emphasizes Timeliness of Paramount's Picture

'THE HITLER GANG'

The time may not be too far away when Hitler and his associates will face inevitable justice and the world will turn to the examination of their records. The most interesting and powerful film indictment of them is Paramount's startling feature production, "The Hitler Gang," made as a drama but holding to documentary accuracy.

The opening title reads:

In 1918 the Germans, facing annihilation, surrendered to the Allies. But there were men among them who did not acknowledge defeat. Before the last shot was fired, they were already planning for the next world war.

This is the story of those men. Shocking though it may be, it is based on fact. The episodes throughout are authenticated by documentary records, by the works of reputable historians, and in some instances by actual participants.

In every detail it is true in so far as decency will permit.



'Jules Levey's in Town'

"THE HAIRY APE" and a nonchalant lad named Jules Levey have been shuffling around Toronto together this past week, the former seeing old friends and the latter making new ones. Acting as aide de camp to this interesting duo is Ben Cronk, who was facilitating communication with the world at large. But let's get the picture right.

Levey is not an animal trainer, though he has "The Hairy Ape" on a celluloid leash. He is on the best of terms with it and is seeking the best of terms for it. "The Hairy Ape," you see, is a top-flight motion picture starring William Bendix and Susan Hayward. It will be released through United Artists—which is why Ben Cronk is around. Jules Levey is the producer.

Let's clear up a few more points. Jules Levey positively does not play the title role in "The Hairy Ape." And it is not a jungle film, in spite of the name, but the commotion picture version of one of the most famed literary properties of our time. Eugene O'Neill wrote it years ago and has always resisted persuasive offers from powerful producers for the film rights. Then Jules Levey came along.

The aftermathematics of "The Hairy Ape" should yield Jules a neat heap of legal tender from the currency of several realms and finance his further adventures in the jungles of exhibition. Even "Variety" says that it "should show up strongly at the BO."

You can bet that Jules Levey will be back in those jungles offering the natives attractive merchandise at reasonable prices. Few persons know the highways, byways, trails and short-cuts of our private world like he does.

JULES LEVEY is another of those maple leaves who fluttered afar. He is the only independent producer with a Canadian background, since Jack L. Warner, born in Ontario, and Louis B. Mayer, formerly of New Brunswick, are corporation men. Like Warner and Mayer, Levey holds an honorary membership in the Canadian Moving Picture Pioneers.

When Jules gets back to see the old folks at their home on Palmerston Boulevard, Toronto, he is soon swept up in a montage of home town stuff. The boys in the business start banging on his door and Jules, like his telephone, goes on a 24-hour shift.

This trip he saw relatives and friends, was welcomed at the City Hall by Mayor Fred Conboy and ex-schoolmate Controller Fred Hamilton, was the guest of

In the centre is Producer Jules Levey, shown being greeted by Mayor Conboy of Toronto (right) and Controller Fred Hamilton.



Fred Orpen of Dufferin Park for the running of the Little Saratoga Handicap, and was the main attraction at several press and radio interviews. He also takes his seat at the film table in Child's, which he refers to as "Lindy's", and helps cut up the daily conversational jackpot.

Jules, son of a revered rabbi of Toronto's Orthodox community, hustled around a bit before his restless feet carried him into the world of shadows and substance. As a boy he always knew how to turn up a few nickels in a hurry. He sold papers on the ferries that crossed Toronto Bay to Hanlan's Point with the baseball crowds, then sold score cards in the park. Any old Torontonians know those boats well. On them George White, later of the Scandals, danced and Harry Peterson sang for silver or pennies. Jules was always selling something.

Rabbi Levey did not like the commercial inclinations of his son, preferring that the obviously bright boy yield to academic routine and perhaps join the rabbinate—but school held no lure. The rabbi took counsel on the subject of his flighty son with his friend, the late Edmund Scheuer, famed philanthropist, jeweler and public figure.

They showed Jules through the workshop of jewelers and watchmakers but even that seemed unromantic to him. So Edmund Scheuer arranged for the boy to take the examinations he had missed in preparation for Jarvis Collegiate. Jules took the exams and made them but never did get to Jarvis.

"I suppose," he said reflectively, "if I had stayed in Toronto I would have been a beadle today."

Eventually Jules settled down (?) in the film business. The Fisher brothers were distributing the product of the Warner boys and he joined them at their offices on Yonge Street, Toronto.

Not long after he switched to the Detroit end of the business. He had one more whack at the old home town before crossing the line for good. He was here with Boxoffice Attractions, later absorbed by Fox.

AS INDICATED, a fellow with Jules' nature is bound to get around. He certainly has in the film business.

He was district manager and eastern sales manager for eight years; sales manager for First National, New York, for three years; special representative for United Artists for nine months; and general manager of RKO film booking for three years.

Then he went legitimate as a company manager for stage shows. He left that to enter the State Right film field in Detroit with George Weeks, once Paramount general manager for Canada and now interested in horse operas. Jules also acquired a couple of theatres in the course of things.

After that he became a high-class hired hand again, joining RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., as general sales manager. This he blew off in 1940 to found Mayfair Productions, Inc., and enter independent production.

Incidentally, his younger

brother Nat, who was brought into the business by Jules, is today eastern sales manager for RKO.

"The Hairy Ape" is the seventh Jules Levey production and there will be more because his trading title says so — Jules Levey Productions, Inc. His first venture was "The Boys from Syracuse" and after that came "Tight Shoes," "Butch Minds the Baby," "Hellzapoppin'," "Pardon My Sarong" and "Jacare." His next, a post-war theme, will probably star Bendix, for whom he has a great personal admiration.

Abbott & Costello, when they worked for him in "Pardon My Sarong," were carrying out a kind of sentimental obligation. Levey was their best booster when the boys were just a couple of burlesquers. Hollywood finally saw it his way with legendary results.

JULES LEVEY has a good trade trick—he can get more out of one man than others can out of a staff. It's easy when that one man is Jules Levey. There's no doubt that he would be a much greater factor in the industry if progress was as easily possible as it was before Hitler. He'll catch up after Hitler—which shouldn't be too far away now.

Everybody's for him because he's an easy guy to like. Excessively friendly and always on the kibitz. "B-rrrr," he shuddered the other cool morning, "It's colder than an exhibitor's heart."

But it isn't really like that. He likes the boys who buy and they like him. They'll buy his pictures so long as there's no indifference of opinion about them—and there hasn't been as yet. So far there's been money made all around and some friendly fun with it.

Jules Levey doesn't always find everybody happy but he usually leaves them that way. And that's a good thing for anyone to have going for him.

J. J. Sullivan Dead In St. Catharines

James (Jimmy) J. Sullivan, St. Catharines, Ontario, theatre and hotel proprietor, well known in Canadian and USA sport circles, passed away last week in the St. Catharines' General Hospital in his 78th year. He had been ill for several months.

In 1915 he built the King George, now Granada Theatre, in conjunction with his brother, the late John Sullivan and his brother-in-law, Frank J. McIlwaine. He retired 22 years ago.

Esquire Offers Pair of Aces

Esquire Films is offering two attractive boxoffice films, one a British film from the Ealing Studios, "San Demetrio, London," and the other, "Taxi to Heaven," a Soviet musical comedy. The Russian film opened last week at the Victory Theatre, Toronto.

The straight-forward, unvarnished story of a single merchant navy ship, "San Demetrio, London," is based on the actual experience of a British tanker, set on fire by the German raider Admiral Scheer in the famous action of November, 1940, with the "Jervis Bay" convoy in mid-Atlantic. The film follows the action of a gallant merchant marine crew who abandon their ship after she is set on fire by an enemy raider but reboard her two days later to bring her back to port.

The British trade press has enthusiastically endorsed this Esquire film. The Daily Film Renter says, "No praise is too high for the magnificent qualities of Ealing Studio's biggest venture to date—'San Demetrio, London'."

Two members of the cast are Canadians. One of these, Robert Beatty, was born in Hamilton and educated in Toronto. Beatty was a newsreel announcer for the BBC's Canadian service and understudied Raymond Massey in British films before he got starring honors. Another Canadian in the cast is John Kannawin, born in Toronto and son of a well-known Hamilton clergyman. His wife and son live in Vancouver.

One of the few films other than dramatic war documentaries turned out by the Soviet studios, "Taxi to Heaven," is a gay, frothy musical relating the amorous complications between a commercial airline pilot and a young singer with operatic ambitions. There is a romantic triangle, excellent music and some fine singing by the star, Ludmila Tselikovskaya.

H. MacNeil Passes In New Glasgow, NS

Henry MacNeil, Nova Scotia movie pioneer, passed away in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia last month in his 74th year.

In the early days of the movies he became associated with N. W. Mason. Their first house was in the MacNeil Building and later they ran the "Empire". He constructed the Itzit and later built the newer Itzit. Mr. MacNeil also put up the Jubilee in Stellarton and the Crescent in Westville, the latter being destroyed by fire a few years before the Roxy was built.

Industry Checkup By IODE Convenors

(Continued from Page 1)

representatives of the people. In no other private industry is an outside body recognized or tolerated. There is no doubt that the industry welcomes the advice and interest of such bodies as the IODE, however. But some will look questioningly at outside opinion of a limited nature given force of law by the co-operation of a government official who represents both the public and that part of it which is the motion picture industry.

According to Mrs. Osler:

"As National Film Convenor, I have been invited to attend any screening of the Ontario Censor Board and on one occasion representatives of various organizations were asked to advise on the release of a certain picture in Ontario. Co-operation with the Censor Board should be sought in each province, and while it is not probable that we should be members of the Board, it is possible that we could attend any screenings desired and also become conversant with provincial censorship and theatre inspection laws."

Theatre and film men will find the following information and opinions interesting:

"The Ontario convenor reports an increase in the work done by the chapters in this department—more annual reports were forwarded and more letters received from Primary Film Convenors asking for information. The work undertaken in 1940 at the request of the Chairman of the Theatre Inspection Branch of visiting the theatre matrons, is still continuing. Every report states that matrons are present in Ontario theatres during the hours when children are legally present. The vigilance of our members in this respect has been of inestimable value on several occasions. Film Convenors are definitely trying to educate their chapter members that children in this province are forbidden by law to attend an evening screening or school-day matinee unaccompanied by an adult, and that they should not buy tickets when solicited by children outside the theatres.

"The chapters in Ontario are very concerned about 'horror' pictures. In one case a chapter joined with other organizations in its vicinity in signing and sending a protest to the Provincial Government. Another chapter succeeded in having a news film depicting gross Japanese atrocities withdrawn and another film substituted. While this type of film was only two per cent of the total released in Ontario during the past year, the Censor

Board of this province is giving the matter serious consideration.

"From the reports sent in by Provincial Convenors it is most apparent that our chapters are showing a definite interest in the problem of films for children. Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick particularly stress the need for suitable films being shown at the Saturday matinees.

"The fact is recognized that during these war years, due to shortages in film negative, actors, help of all kinds, plus increased boxoffice demand, the producers have difficulty in turning out a sufficient number of family or adult types of pictures. However, in spite of this, the question of movies for children is one we should all consider. Special food for children and special books for children are taken as a matter of course—why not special movies for children? Other countries have accomplished this with success, why can not we? The considered appointment of a child psychologist to the Ontario Board of Censors to give expert advice on the suitability of movies being shown at Saturday matinees verifies our observations that present conditions are deplorable.

"Canada today must find a solution to her juvenile delinquency problem,—since 1939 this has increased 54.4 per cent. Children are the product of environment rather than heredity and they should not be overlooked in the turmoil and stress of a country at war. The co-operation of parents is necessary and our members are continually being urged to supervise the films their children see, but this is not enough.

"For many years past this Order and other women's organizations have used their influence in procuring better types of pictures and their efforts have been successful to some degree, but there is still much to be done. We all know that youth is impressionable and must assimilate more than we realize of what is seen and heard. We must not delay in wakening the public conscience as to the psychological effect certain moving pictures have on young minds. Scenes of war are necessary for the realization that the benefits to be derived from a democratic way of life must not be extinguished, but many types of second-rate films could be eliminated.

"There is no thought that all pictures should be seen by all people. Let us continue to have films for adults, films for the family, but also a decided increase in films for children."



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